



## BRIEFING

### Proactive release of Cabinet papers: Accelerating MIQ Network Transition and the National Quarantine System

<b>Date:</b>	5 May 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security classification:</b>		<b>Tracking number:</b>	2122-4251

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Chris Hipkins <b>Minister for COVID-19 Response</b>	<b>Agree</b> to the release of the Cabinet papers and associated minutes <b>Agree</b> to the proposed redactions	12 May 2022

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Kara Isaac	General Manager, MIQ Policy	Privacy of natural persons	
Privacy of natural persons	Manager, System and Strategy Policy		✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
Ministry of Health, Treasury, New Zealand Defence Force, New Zealand Police, Crown Law, Customs, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of Pacific Peoples, Te Puni Kokiri, Ministry for Women, Aviation Security/Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Justice, Ministry for Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Social Development

Minister's office to complete:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved             | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted                | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn           |

Comments



## EVENT BRIEFING

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#### Purpose

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To seek your agreement to proactively release the following Cabinet papers and associated minutes by 19 May 2022:

- A National Quarantine System: options for the Ongoing COVID-19 Response and Future Pandemic Preparedness (considered on 8 December 2021)
- Options for Accelerating MIQ Network Transition (considered on 9 March 2022)

#### Recommended action

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The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Agree** to the release of the Cabinet paper A National Quarantine System: options for the Ongoing COVID-19 Response and Future Pandemic Preparedness and associated minute by 19 May 2022.  
Agree / Disagree
- b **Agree** that the release of the Programme Business Case (PBC) that went with the Cabinet paper on the National Quarantine System is withheld until after the PBC has been revised and decisions have been made  
Agree / Disagree
- c **Agree** to the release of the Cabinet paper Options for Accelerating MIQ Network Transition and associated minute by 19 May 2022.  
Agree / Disagree
- d **Agree** to the proposed redactions in both papers.  
Agree / Disagree

Kara Isaac  
**General Manager, MIQ Policy**  
Managed Isolation and Quarantine, MBIE

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Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister for COVID-19 Response**

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## Background

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1. On 8 December 2021, you took the paper Maintaining MIQ in the Short term and the following papers and supporting documents to the Social Wellbeing Committee:
  - A National Quarantine System: options for the Ongoing COVID-19 Response and Future Pandemic Preparedness (Annex One)
  - Programme Business Case for a national quarantine system
2. On 13 December 2022, Cabinet confirmed the decisions of the Social Wellbeing Committee regarding the above papers [CAB-21-MIN-0525 refers].
3. On 9 March 2022, these papers were overtaken by the Options for Accelerating MIQ Network Transition Cabinet paper (Annex Two). This meant that some of the funding agreed to in Maintaining MIQ in the short-term was returned to the COVID Response and Recovery Fund and a number of agencies have transitioned out of MIQ sooner than was anticipated in December 2021. Since then, the scope of the National Quarantine System work mentioned has been refined and MIQ is revising the Programme Business Case.
4. On 7 April 2022, we sought your agreement to proactively release the Cabinet paper on Maintaining MIQ in the short-term and its associated minute [2122-2667 refers]. On 26 April 2022, we received advice from your Office on the proposed redactions and will work with the office before that paper is finalised for proactive release.
5. The Office has also asked that we upload that paper at the same time as the papers subject to this briefing. The Coversheet that was drafted for the release of the Cabinet materials on Maintaining MIQ in the Short Term has therefore been updated to include these two papers (Annex Three).
6. Please note that MBIE requires at least 3-5 working days to publish Cabinet material to [mbie.govt.nz](http://mbie.govt.nz), following completion of a due diligence process and having obtained your approval to the material's proactive release. If you would like the material released on a specific date (for example, to coincide with an announcement) please let us know so we can work to meet your timeframes.

## Recommendation

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7. MBIE recommends the proactive release of the two Cabinet papers and associated minutes with some information redacted for the following reasons:
  - Negotiations
  - Commercial information
  - Legal professional privilege
8. We recommend that the release of the Programme Business Case that went with the Cabinet paper on the National Quarantine System (Annex One) is withheld at this time on the basis that the content in the paper is still under active consideration (see para 3 above). We propose that it is released after that process has been completed and decisions have been made.

## Consultation

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9. MBIE Communications have been notified of the proposed release of information and have raised no issues.

10. The Ministry of Health, Treasury, New Zealand Defence Force, New Zealand Police, Crown Law, Aviation Security/Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Social Development have been consulted and have no issues with the proposed release of both papers and their minutes.
11. We are liaising with the MIQ Communications team on any potential reactive lines on the papers when they are released,

## **Annexes**

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Annex One: Cabinet paper and minute: *A National Quarantine System: options for the Ongoing COVID-19 Response and Future Pandemic Preparedness*

Annex Two: Cabinet paper and minute: *Options for Accelerating MIQ Network Transition*

Annex Three: Coversheet

## **Annex One: Cabinet paper and minute: A National Quarantine System: options for the Ongoing COVID-19 Response and Future Pandemic Preparedness**

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Cabinet paper available here: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/20307-a-national-quarantine-system-options-for-the-ongoing-covid-19-response-an-future-pandemic-preparedness-proactiverelease-pdf>

Cabinet minute available here: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/20310-a-national-quarantine-system-options-for-the-ongoing-covid-19-response-an-future-pandemic-preparedness-minute-of-decision-proactiverelease-pdf>

## **Annex Two: Cabinet paper and minute: Options for Accelerating MIQ Network Transition**

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Cabinet paper available here: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/20313-options-for-accelerating-miq-network-transition-proactiverelease-pdf>

**Annex Three: Coversheet**

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